Save Foggy Bottom...It's Where We Live! Published by the Foggy Bottom Association

FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

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MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!

Interested in becoming a member of the FBA? Just mail your name, address, e-mail and business phone to: Foggy Bottom Association (Membership), P.O. Box 195, 2560 Virginia Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20037. Please enclose $15 for annual dues, made out to Foggy Bottom Association. (Dues for full-time college students are $5.) Or, just come to the FBA's next meeting, Jan. 30 at 7:30 at the Melrose Hotel, 2430 Pennsylvania Ave., where we'll be glad to sign you up!

Foggy Bottom Folks

By Ellie Becker

As I Was Saying Before I Rudely Interrupted Myself...

It's nice to be back at the keyboard to try to circulate news about FB neighbors. I've missed it, and I hear often that others have as well. That's because we are neighbors, and we all want to know about the area and its residents.

St. Mary's Court: *Friends celebrated with Marifran Langvardt last year a presentation in her honor at St. Mary's Court. Center-front are Father John David van Dooren and Langvardt. St. Mary's Court Executive Director Beatrice Watson is standing at left.* *Photo: Ellie Becker for FBN*

In the interim we've suffered losses of friends: **Nora Peter** and **Stanley Dlugosz** of Eye Street, **Opal Cottrell** of Hughes Mews, and **Marie Kirby** who lived on F Street.

A real pioneer in our city's life was **Harriet Hubbard**, who passed away in September. She had lived many years on F St., and in the 1940's lived in Georgetown. According to the Federation of Citizens Associations' newsletter, she "successfully maneuvered to [its] enactment the Old Georgetown Act, the first preservation law to be passed" in D.C. With her neighbors, she "managed to persuade the city to downzone the commercial streets of Georgetown and adjacent streets."

The newsletter called Harriet "feisty, doggedly determined," and credited her with activism against the infamous freeways planned to run through the city (including Foggy Bottom and the West End) which were not built, and in a variety of zoning and preservation efforts in the Dupont area and the Greater U St. district. In her later years illness slowed her down, but friends and neighbors could visit with her on her front porch, two houses away from her friend and another civic treasure, **Lucille Molinelli**.

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Weed Whacker: *Former FBA Treasurer Bob Vogt enjoys his new pastime: Whacking weeds at the 26th St. park cleanup.* *Photo: Melissa Charron for FBN*

FBA, City Crews Spruce Up the 'Hood

Volunteers coordinated by the FBA and city crews have helped spruce up our neighborhood in recent weeks.

On Saturday, Nov. 12, **Bobbie Hertzfeldt** led about 30 volunteers from Foggy Bottom and the West End in cleaning the 26th St. park south of K St. The Department of Parks and Recreation provided rakes, shovels and other essentials – special thanks to DPR's **Gail Benjamin** and **Leon Harris** of DPR for their support (and wood chips!) for the playground and dog park. The FBA provided pizza and refreshments for participants.

All Together Now: *Neighbors enjoy the day after a job well done sprucing up the 26th St. park.*

Then on two successive Saturdays in December, volunteers manned rakes and brooms and "attacked" the leaves and other debris in the 800 block of New Hampshire Ave. and part of the 900 block of 25th St. The first Saturday, directed by **Norrene Vogt**, was blessed with a host of volunteers and resulted in no less than 20 bags of debris. It was a project of the FBA's Community Improvement Committee, and became a neighborhood "happening."

Those who helped met neighbors known and new to them. Those helping included **Ken Durham, Steve Timlin, Esther Stiles, Steve Bennett**, and **Jeanne Abel** and her husband **Jurgen Zilling**. And speaking of husbands, you can be sure that **Bob Vogt** was on hand as well. This writer did some leaf-raking, but mostly enjoyed replacing some bricks on a part of the sidewalk.

The second Saturday was colder and much too close to Christmas, but a hardy worker showed up to help "director" **Ellie Becker**. Again it was Norrene Vogt who pitched in, and later on **Jane Smith, Linda Frees** and **Mark Jackson** lent a hand. (Or to be more precise, six hands and three backs). We managed to fill a bunch of bags.

A week and a half later found our streets and trees spaces being cleared by DPW. The chilly weather prevented the usual street-sweeping equipment from being used since they use water. However, four very hard-working men led by **Gerald Love** used large rakes under and around the cars and piled up leaves which were then scooped up by the big leaf vacuum.

Other neighborhoods have regular street-sweeping which our heavy and constant street parking prevents. Between the FBA-sponsored volunteer events and the DPW's good work, things look a whole lot better for the New Year.

The 900 block of 25th St. never fails to put me in mind of many residents who are crying for trees on our streets. That block has enough large and leafy trees for three or four blocks and they seldom shed their leaves at the same time. It's frustrating to rake, bag and come back the next day only to find that it looks like you were never there. Managers of the large buildings on the block keep their sidewalks and gutters clean, but the rest of the block's residents (with a few exceptions, such as **Dorothy Bunevich**) enjoy the shade but let their leaves turn into hard masses which block water runoff.

– Ellie Becker, with Melissa Charron contributing

Chipping Away: *A group of volunteers brings in fresh wood chips for the 26th St. park.* *Photos: Melissa Charron for FBN*

Bagging it Up: *Expert leaf-sweeper and bagger Norrene Vogt ties up one of the bags filled in the 900 block of 25th Street.* *Photo: Ellie Becker for FBN*

THE FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS
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The Foggy Bottom News is published by the Foggy Bottom Association as a service to its members and provides information on FBA and neighborhood news, programs, activities and other events of interest to FBA members. Contributions and story ideas are welcome, but the FBN reserves the right to edit or hold pieces as space requires.

The Foggy Bottom Association was formed by a group of citizens in 1955 and was formally incorporated in 1959. Attendance at FBA meetings is open to all residents of Foggy Bottom and the West End.

FBA Officers:
PRESIDENT – Joy Howell
VICE PRESIDENT – Barbara Spillinger
SECRETARY – Jill Nevius
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Foggy Bottom Folks

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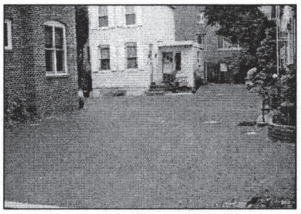
St. Stephens's & St. Mary's

St. Stephen's has welcomed its new pastor, **Monsignor Edward Filardi**, who took over the 25th St. & Pennsylvania Ave. church this past summer. Prior to his being assigned here, he served as priest-secretary to Washington's **Theodore Cardinal McCarrick**. Msgr. Filardi grew up in Columbia, Md., and served at parishes in Gaithersburg and Kensington. **Father Klaus Sirianni**, who was born in Germany, also came to St. Stephen's this summer from St. Jane de Chantal Parish in Bethesda. He is the Catholic chaplain at George Washington University Hospital. **Father William Gurnee** rounds out the clergy component and will also serve as chaplain at GW's Newman Center.

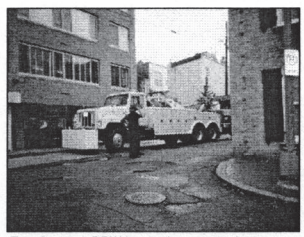


Bricks in the Mews: The newly brick-paved roadway in Hughes Mews. Photos: Ellie Becker for FBN

Msgr. Cary Hill was named pastor of Holy Cross Church in Kensington, Md., a large parish with an elementary school, situated on spacious grounds near White Flint and Strathmore Music Center. We hear that not only have his responsibilities grown, but his office as well. At St. Stephen's it was a "large closet;" at Holy Gross his office is much larger with big windows looking out on green lawns. Those who know him wonder if lots more room will mean lots more organized workspace. [Msgr. Hill: I knew I would get a chance to take revenge on you for that lunchtime crack sometime back!] And talk about coincidences: This writer's brother is a very active parishioner at Holy Cross, and her sister is the same at St. Jane's.

Nori Uchida moved from her tiny, flower-resplendent house on Eye St. to the Plaza on 25th St. Her garden mania is still with her, as she was seen weeding and pruning in the front yard of a house owned by her former neighbor. She also has been awarded the Order of Merit by Cardinal McCarrick. Nori was cited for long service at St. Stephen's as sacristan, lector, Eucharistic minister and, to no one's surprise, parish gardener.

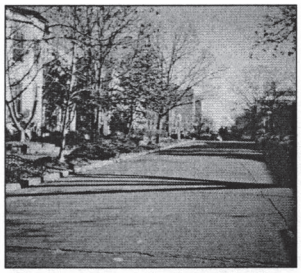
The Order of Merit was also awarded to longtime Westbridge resident **Jim Zwotenik** for his service at St. Stephen's, on the parish pastoral and financial councils, and as acolyte, lector, and master of ceremonies for Holy Week and other major events at the church.



Tow-Away: A DPW heavy-duty tow truck removes a large dump truck from Hughes Mews.

The long wait is over for the parishioners at **St. Mary's Episcopal Church** on 23rd St. After a year of renovation and repair, the "Reentry Celebration" was held Nov. 6, with Diocese Bishop the **Right Reverend John Bryson Chane** presiding. The historic church, designed by James Renwick, was damaged by nearby GWU construction. The FBA hopes to schedule a special tour of the church in the New Year, when visitors can see the church's unique architecture.

Thankfully, there are only a few signs left of the devastating fire at St. Mary's Court last March. Some months later St. Mary's Court was the scene of a celebration in honor of **Marifran Langvardt,** who retired as executive assistant at St. Mary's Court to foresake our area for California climes, drawn by children and grandchildren. Marifran was for years the volunteer religious activities coordinator at St. Mary's Court.



Clean Street: The curbside of 2500 block of Eye Street was swept clean by DPW workers in December. A Foggy Bottom street can only rarely be seen clear of leaves and trash – and cars.

Fireworks and Famous Faces

Wow, weren't those *loud* Kennedy Center fireworks back in October a bit over the top? I was fortunate enough to see some of them from my house, and thought at the time they were running pretty late. Memories (not pleasant) of AmJam were revived. And then the explosions came! I can believe the concern they caused around town, as reported in the papers.

Jane Brown, whose 25th St. front yard reflects her English background, received some kudos for her flowers from another English lady: Actress **Vanessa Redgrave**, in town to star in a show at the Kennedy Center, stayed just across the street from Jane, and praised Jane's horticultural acumen on her way to the theater.

On New Year's Eve a *Washington Post* article mentioned that aides to **President Bush** often were recruited to clear brush on his ranch – except for **Condoleezza Rice,** who, the Post said, usually managed to avoid the chores. But we know where the Watergate resident was on New Year's Eve afternoon – at the Watergate Safeway, in line with the rest of us.

You may not recognize her name, but if you patronize the Watergate Post Office, you would know **Jackie Rowe Simmons'** face. Jackie has been transferred to the Ben Franklin Post Office downtown. From what I saw before Christmas, customers were handled quickly and courteously, even with the rush.

Hughes Mews Improves

Kudos to the city's Departments of Public Works and Transportation for the fantastic improvements they have made in Hughes Mews off 26th St.

DPW did a masterful towing job removing a huge illegally parked truck and a rusting piece of construction equipment which had blighted the area for years. **Murray Nimmo, Gregg Hopkins, Melissa Charron, Claire Ciftci** and this writer are among the FB folks who over a long period of time have contacted the D.C. government about it.

D-DOT crews then redid the roadways with brick, harking the area back to its historic look. Next up on D-DOT's FB to-do list is redoing the roadbeds in Snow's Court. **ANC 2A03 Commissioner Ann Savage** is keeping track of D-DOT's 5-year plan for street and alley repair in our neighborhood; we thank her for that. – *E.B.*